Mr. Athan Theoharis
History Department
Marquette University
Wilwaukee, Wisc. 53233

2/28/81

Dear Professor Theoharis,

Please note that I live near Frederick, not Fredericksburg.

You are welcome to copies of anything I have, probably more than a quarter of a million pages now. There are 60,000 or so on the King assassination investigation. I have a request in for the political ("security" files to the FBI) records also. As you might imagine, that is being stonewalled.

What you seem to have most interest in is what I have from Hoover's O & C files. Morton Halperin's request for those records was broader, so I suggest that you first ask him because that way you should get more.

I've also obtained an inventory of field office records pertaining to the campaign against King, a little more than 400 pages of inventories.

There are also miscellaneous records pertaining to authorization for spying, as on the family of James Earl Ray and Marina Oswald, among others. I'm getting summaries of about 23 reels of tape on Marina. I declined transcripts because too much is too personal. I have knowledge of some of the content.

There are records of the spying done by others, as the Memphis sheriff on James Earl Ray. Some on Jim Garrison. I've filed an appeal and won so there should be more.

In general I have the FBIHQ, Dallas and New Orleans JFK assassination, Lee and Marina Oswald and Jack Ruby files plus one on the Warren Commission. With King I have the FBIHQ "MURKIN" files and those of seven field offices. I also have the FBIHQ and Memphis files on the sanitation workers whose strike King was supporting and a misnamed group of young blacks who called themselves the Invaders. A friend, Dr. Gerald McKnight, of the local Hood history faculty, has done a lengthy scholarly article on the strike files and I'm hoping this summer he will do the same with the Invaders file, thereafter to do a book incorporating both, as an illustration of the permeating FBI spying in a single community.

Except for the selection I have from the O & C file, about an inch and a half thick, it is not practical for me to make copies without knowing what you really want. I am not able to stand now, as a result of complications following arterial surgery, and until after April 15 my wife won't have much time for any copying.

However, if you can come here, you are more than welcome. You should be able to save much over the FBI's charge. While our actual costs are close to what they charge because of the nature of our aging machine, I imagine that commerical zeroxing is available locally. I've made no recent inquiry because I have out slow Toshiba.

I read some of your excellent articles but I was not aware of your book. Glad you did it and the sequel sounds like a worthwhile project. Good luck with it!

I am inclined to think that at least the (incomplete) inventory of the enormous campaign against King should interest you. If you want to join me in that request, which is older than any claimed backlog, fine. There isn't much I can do about it now for several reasons. One is health and the limitations that imposes. Another is the newest in the dirty tricks to "stop" me, the FBI's own word. (They don't love me and they've pulled Cointelpros on me beginning long before they coined that acronym.) They and Civil Division counsel combined to revoke the fee waiver I'd won administratively, as I also have in two 1975 and still current suits. Until I can defeat them on that I can't pay for the records.

All of my records will wind up at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point Branch. I picked it becauss of Dr. David Wrone. The request of me was by the State Historical Association. However, the arrangement is that copies will be available to anyone and any college.

If I can be helpful in any other way, please ask. I have made some of my own discoveries about the FBI and its filing and other practises. Are you aware, for example, of its abstracts? At FBIHQ and on every record until, perhaps, September 1979, when I forced them to provide those pertaining to the MURKIN file. They claimed in court to have abandoned abstracts 9/79.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg